



PADMINI

A TALE OF LOVE AND HONOUR

Vol 605





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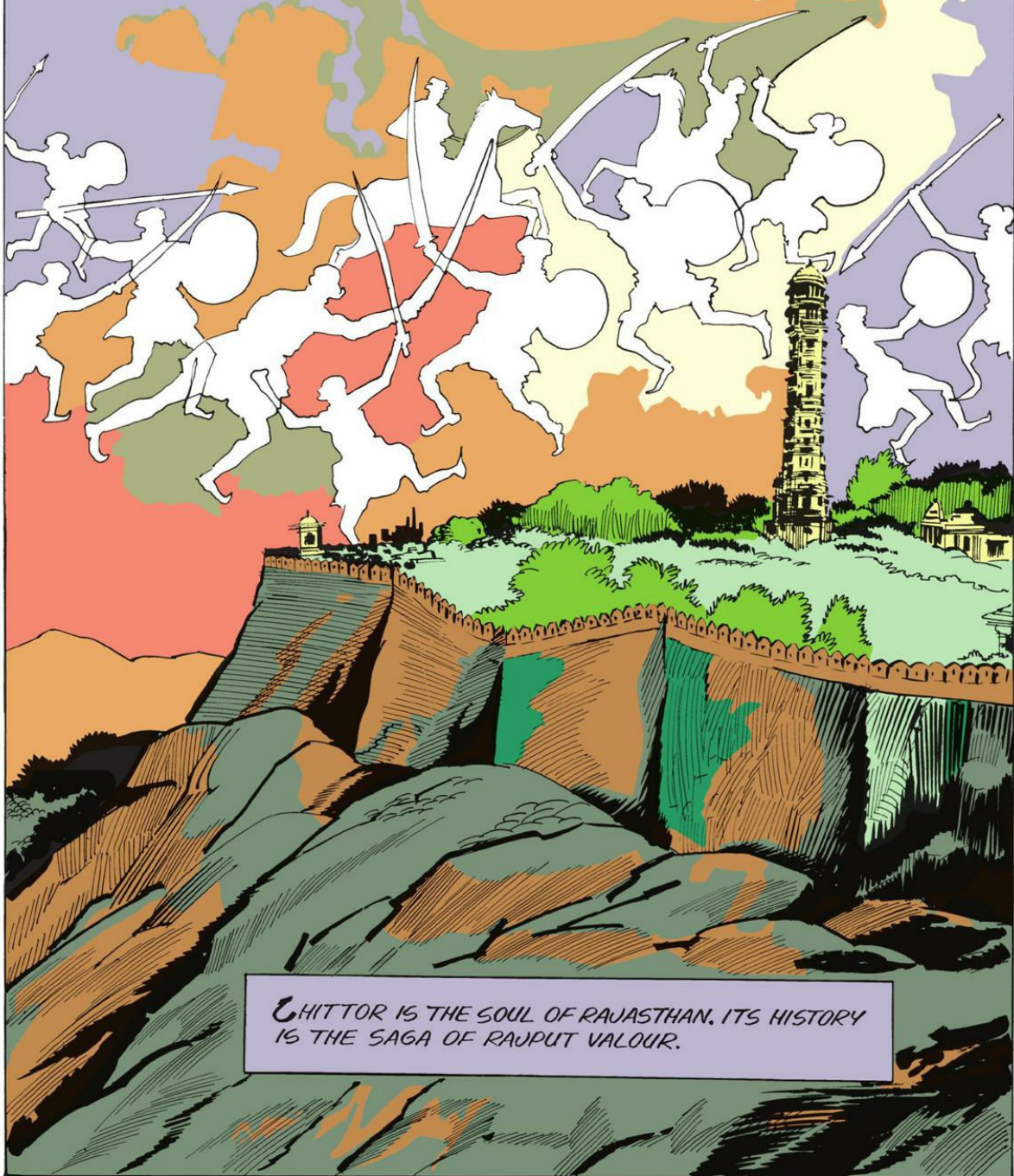
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PADMINI

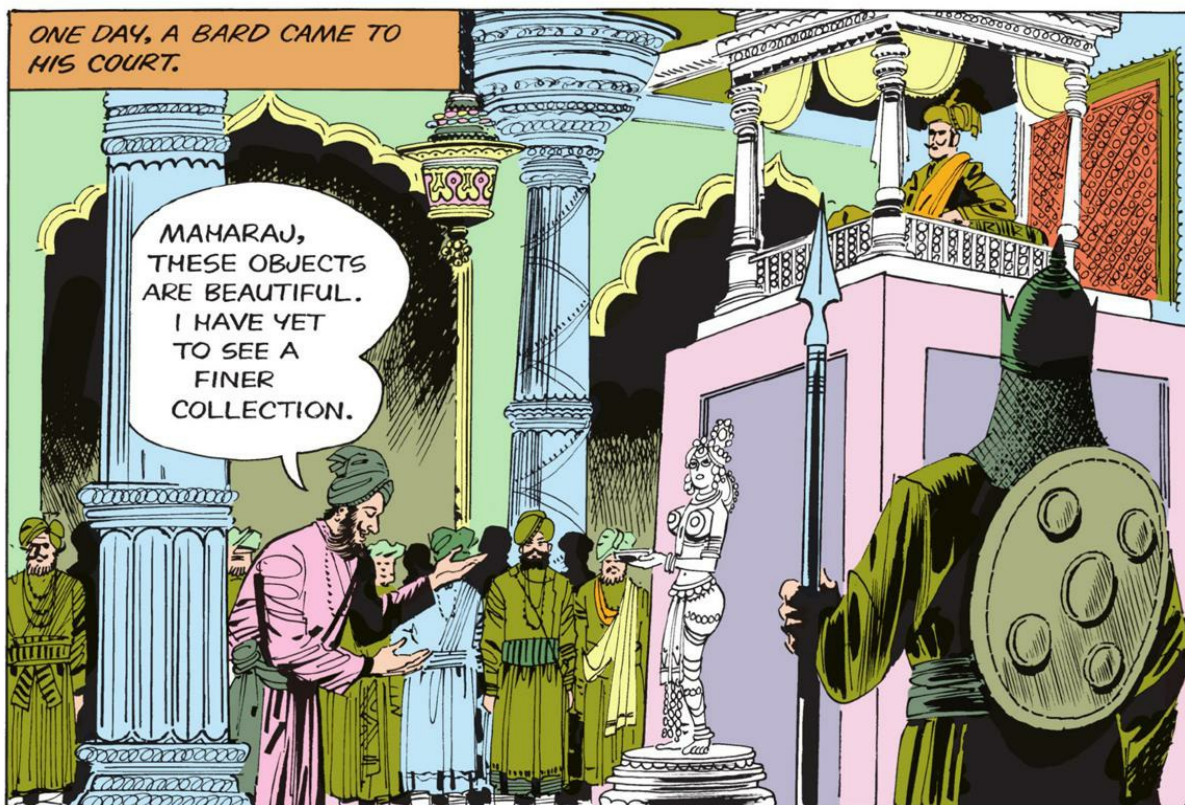


RAJA RATNASEN, A VALIANT RULER OF CHITTOR
WAS ALSO A LOVER OF MUSIC.

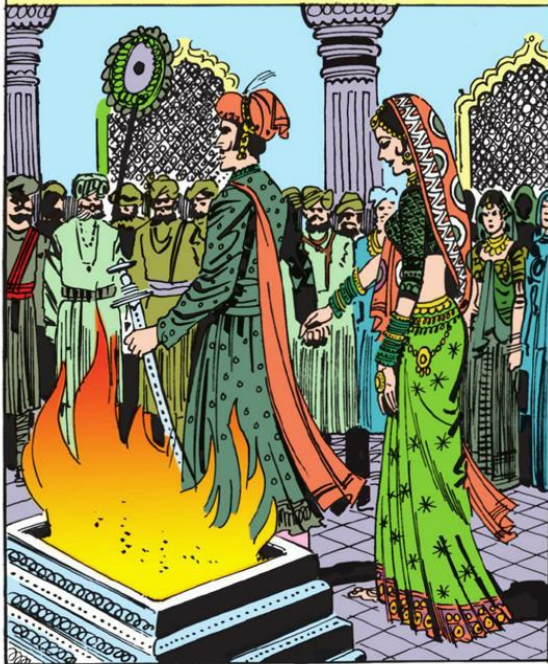


HE WAS ALSO A LOVER OF BEAUTY AND FINE-ARTS.

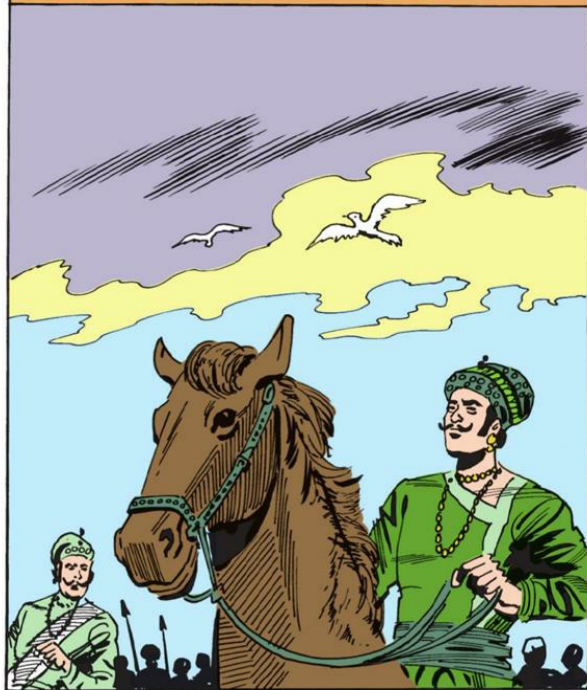




DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE BARD'S ACCOUNT OF PADMINI, RATNASEN WENT TO SINHALA AND MARRIED HER.



ON THEIR JOURNEY BACK TO CHITTOR, PADMINI'S RELATIVES, GORA AND BADAL, ACCOMPANIED THE BRIDE.



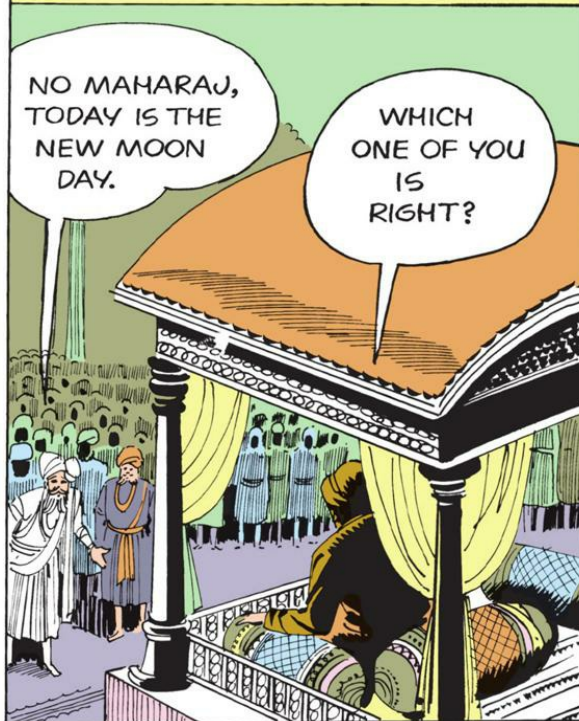
SOON KING RATNASEN WAS BACK IN THE COURT OF CHITTOR.



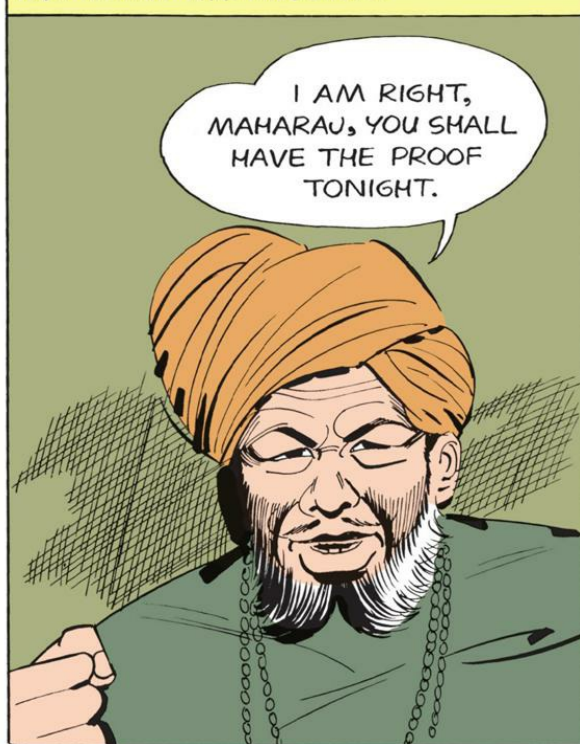
AMONG RATNASEN'S COURTIER'S WAS A SCHOLAR NAMED RAGHAV CHETAN. ONE DAY -



BUT RAGHAV CHETAN HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS CALCULATIONS.



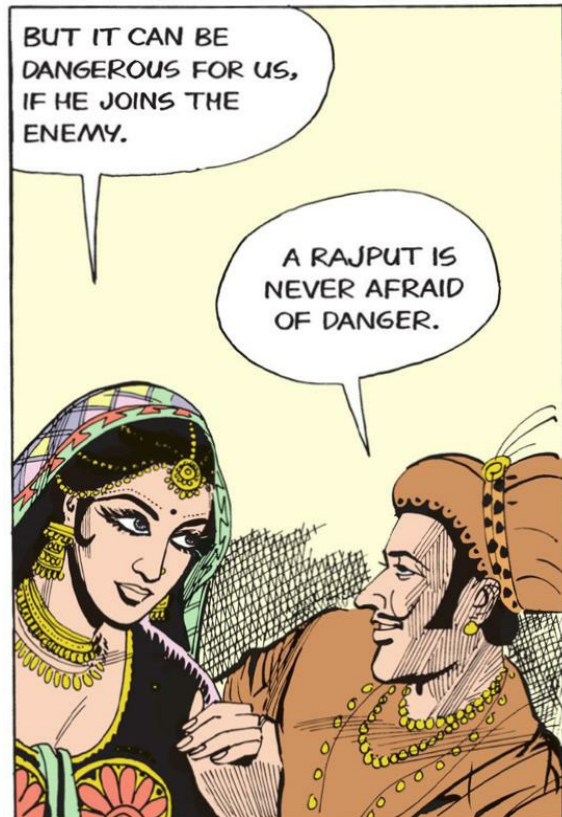
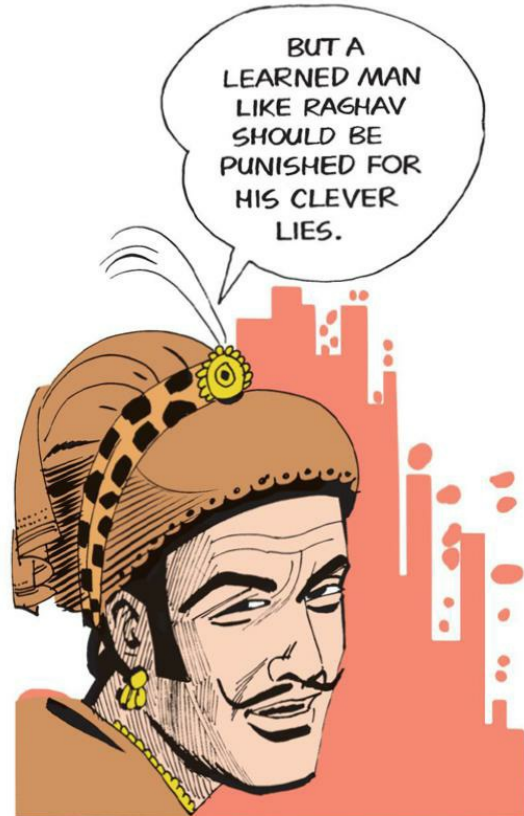
BEING A STUBBORN MAN RAGHAV DID NOT ADMIT HIS MISTAKE.



THAT NIGHT RAGHAV USED HIS SORCERY AND -

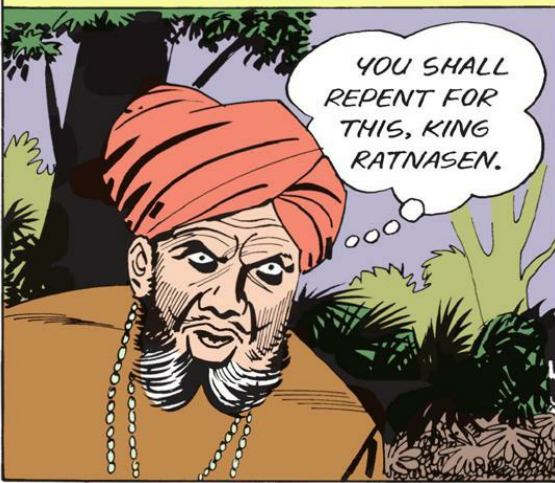








RAGHAV CHETAN, THEN PROCEEDED TOWARDS DELHI THROUGH JUNGLES.



ALA-UD-DIN, THE SULTAN OF DELHI, WAS HUNTING IN THE SAME JUNGLE.



SUDDENLY A MELODIOUS TUNE FILLED THE JUNGLE AIR.



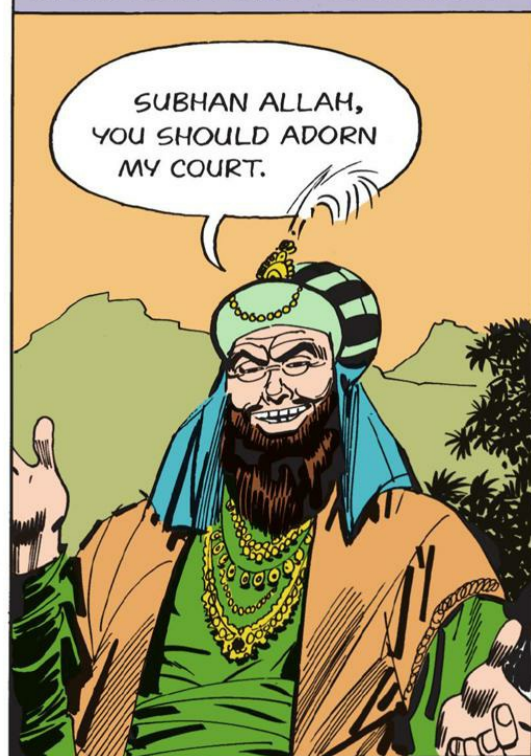
THE HERD OF DEER RAN IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE MUSIC CAME. FASCINATED, ALA-UD-DIN FOLLOWED THE DEER.



THE DEER STOPPED IN FRONT OF RAGHAV PLAYING HIS FLUTE. THEY WERE HYPNOTISED. SO WAS THE SULTAN.



HE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH MUSIC.



THUS RAGHAV CHETAN JOINED THE DELHI COURT.



RATNASEN! BEWARE!
NOW IT IS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME.
I AM CATCHING UP.



ONE DAY A HUNTER PRESENTED A RABBIT TO THE SULTAN.



PADMINI, THE QUEEN OF CHITTOR IS. SHE IS THE MOST DELICATE AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.



ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE TWO THOUSAND EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL BEGUMS. SURELY PADMINI CAN'T BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL OF THEM.



NO SULTAN, I INSIST THAT PADMINI IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.



THERE AND THEN ALA-UD-DIN MADE A DECISION.

WELL THEN, PADMINI SHOULD
BE IN MY HAREM.

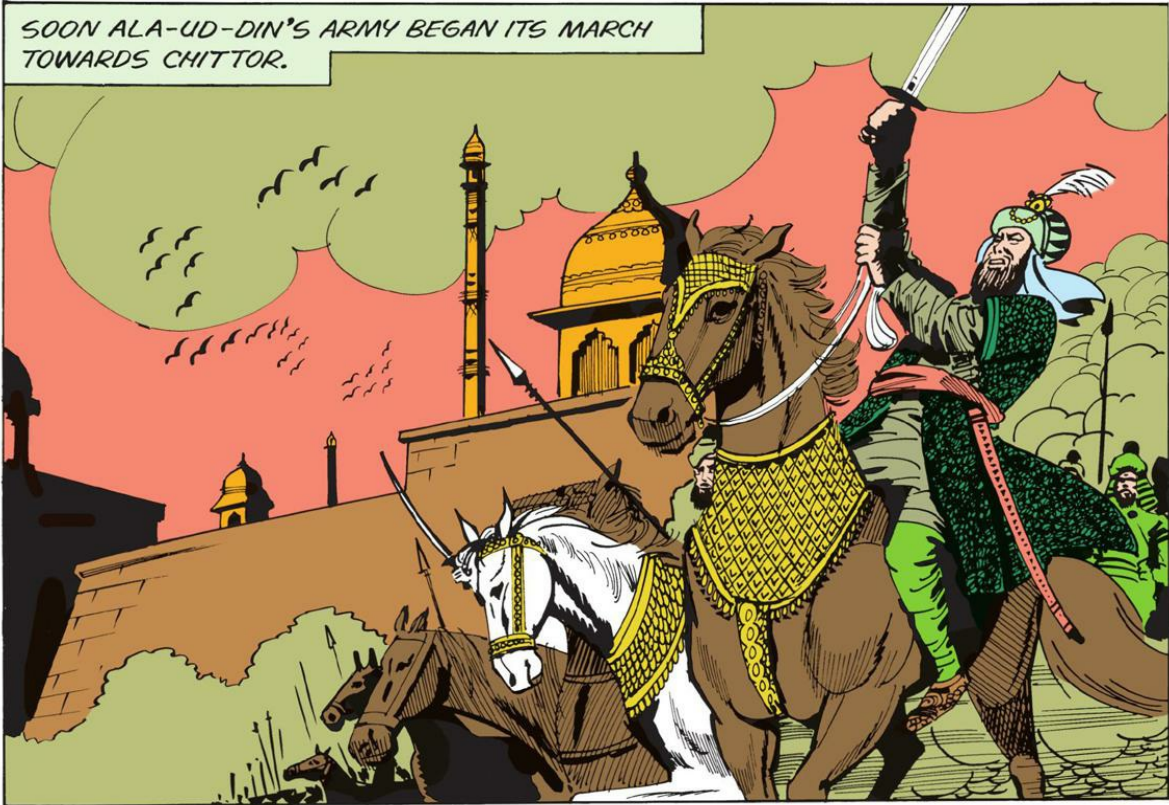
AND
CHITTOR UNDER
YOUR
RULE.



YES, A NEW
KINGDOM AND THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
I CAN KILL TWO
BIRDS WITH
ONE STONE.



SOON ALA-UD-DIN'S ARMY BEGAN ITS MARCH
TOWARDS CHITTOR.



SO LARGE WAS THIS ARMY THAT THE DUST RAISED BY ITS
MARCH MASKED THE SUN.



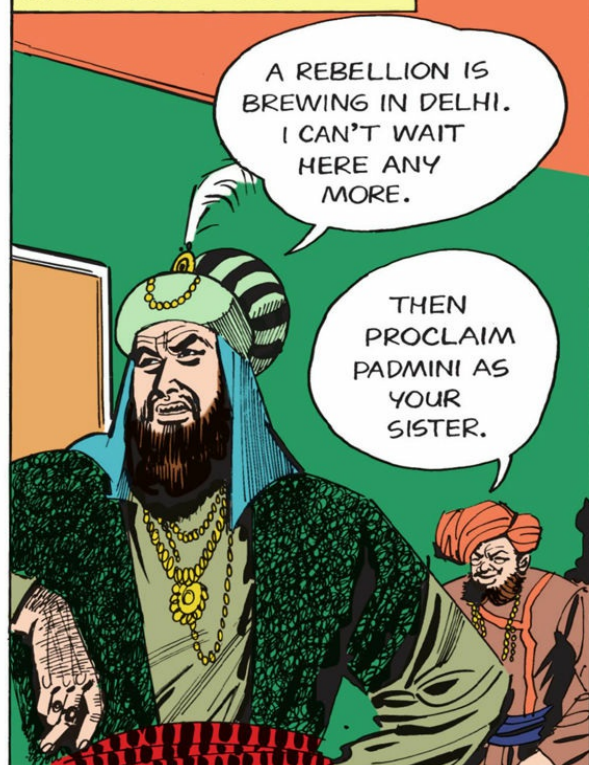
ALA-UD-DIN LAID A SIEGE AROUND THE FORT OF CHITTOR.
BUT TO CONQUER THE WELL-FORTIFIED FORT OF CHITTOR
WAS NOT AN EASY TASK.

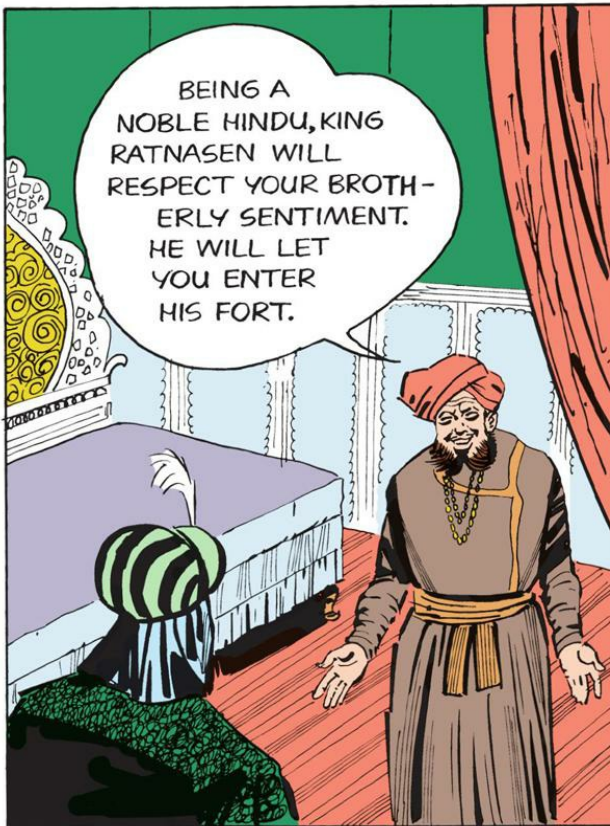
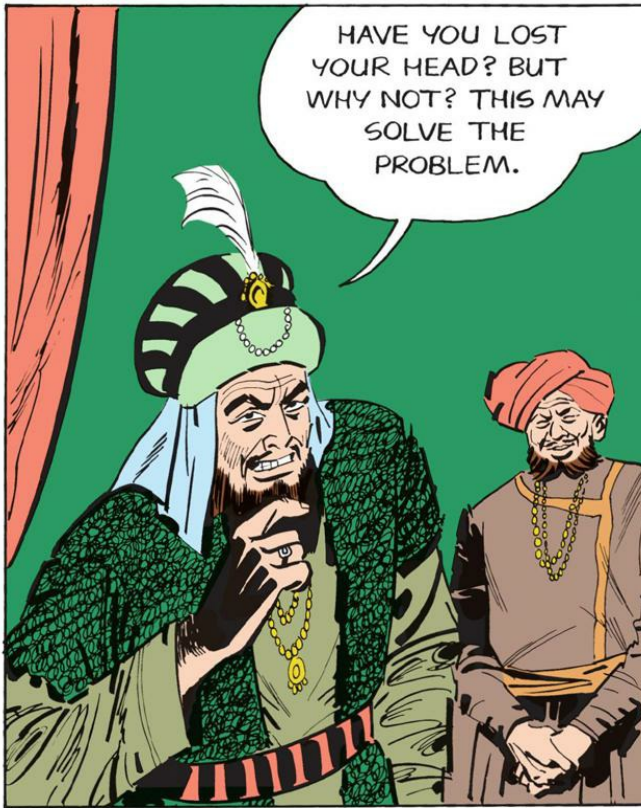


AFTER A LONG WAIT—



AFTER SOME MORE TIME—

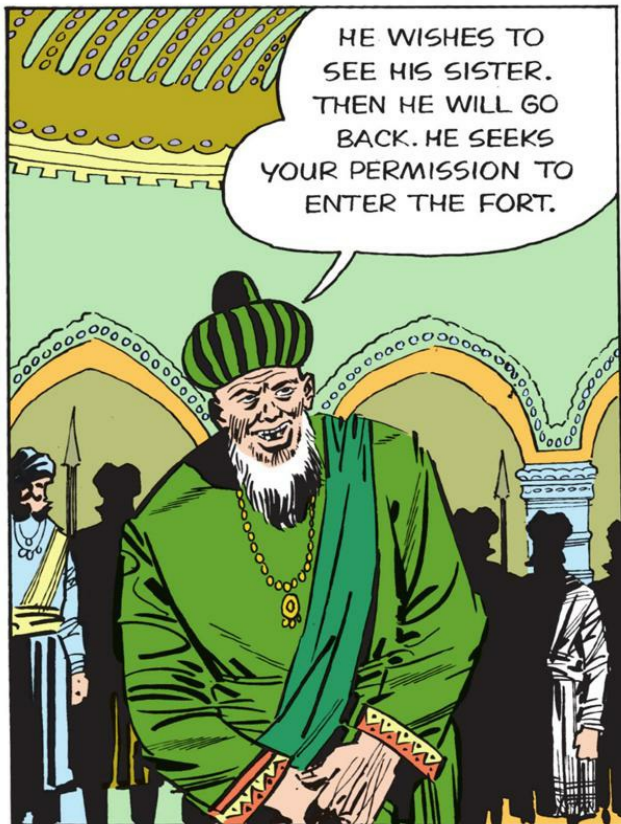




NEXT DAY ALA-UD-DIN'S MESSENGER VISITED THE CHITTOR COURT.



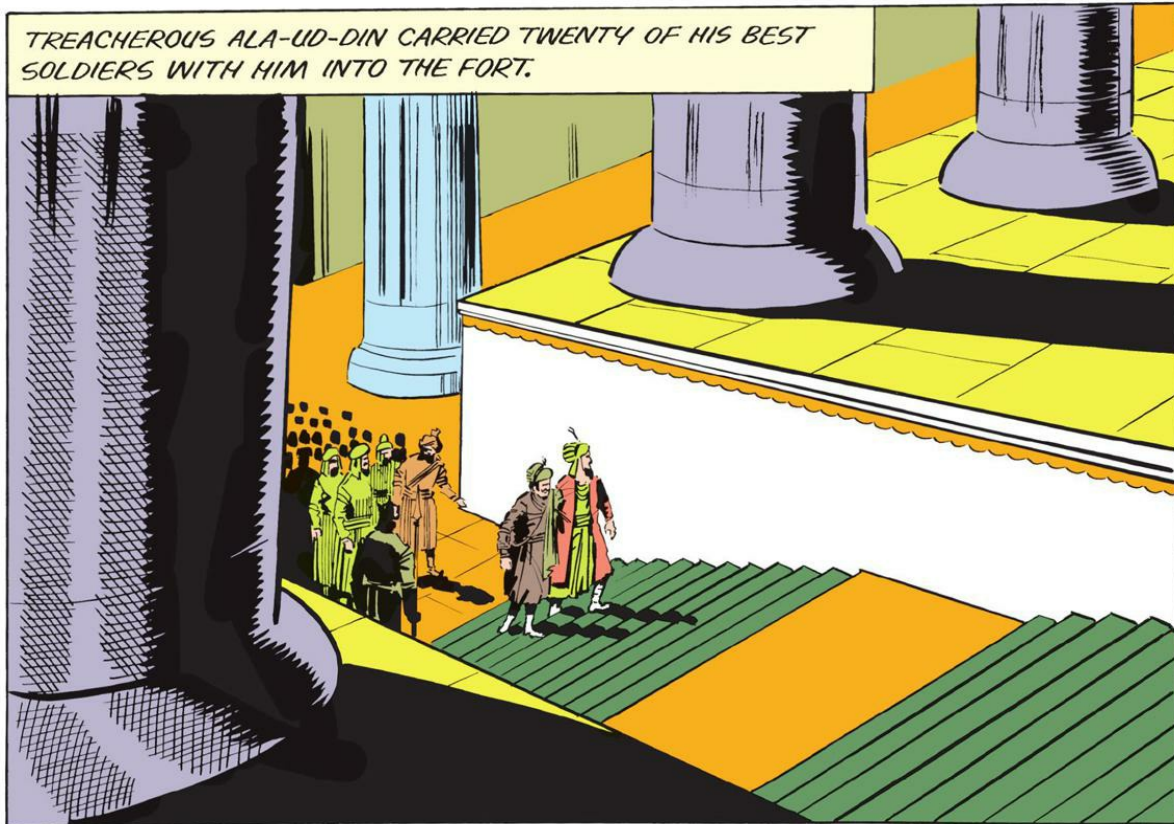
HUZUR, OUR SULTAN CALLS FOR PEACE. HE HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF A BROTHER TO QUEEN PADMINI.



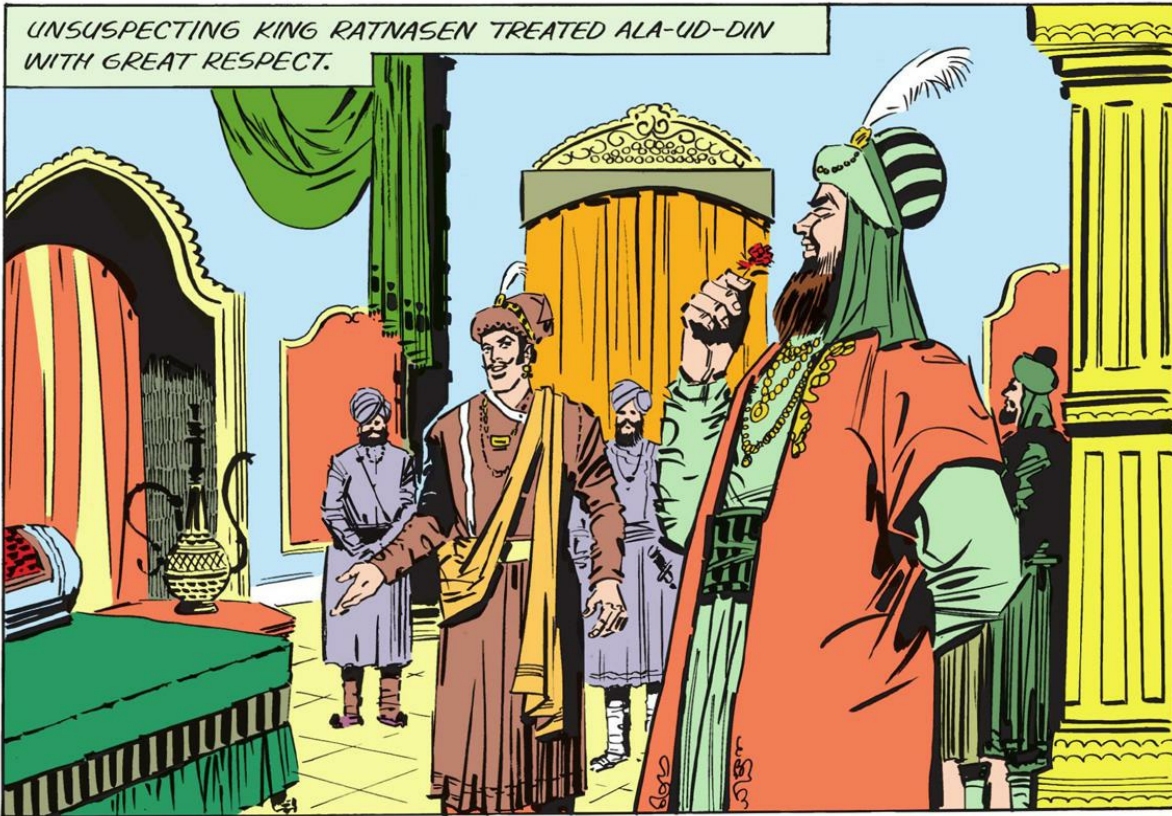
HE WISHES TO SEE HIS SISTER. THEN HE WILL GO BACK. HE SEEKS YOUR PERMISSION TO ENTER THE FORT.



A BROTHER NEEDS NO PERMISSION TO MEET HIS SISTER. YOUR SULTAN IS MOST WELCOME.



UNSUSPECTING KING RATNASEN TREATED ALA-UD-DIN WITH GREAT RESPECT.



INFORM MAHARANI
PADMINI THAT HER
BROTHER HAS
ARRIVED.

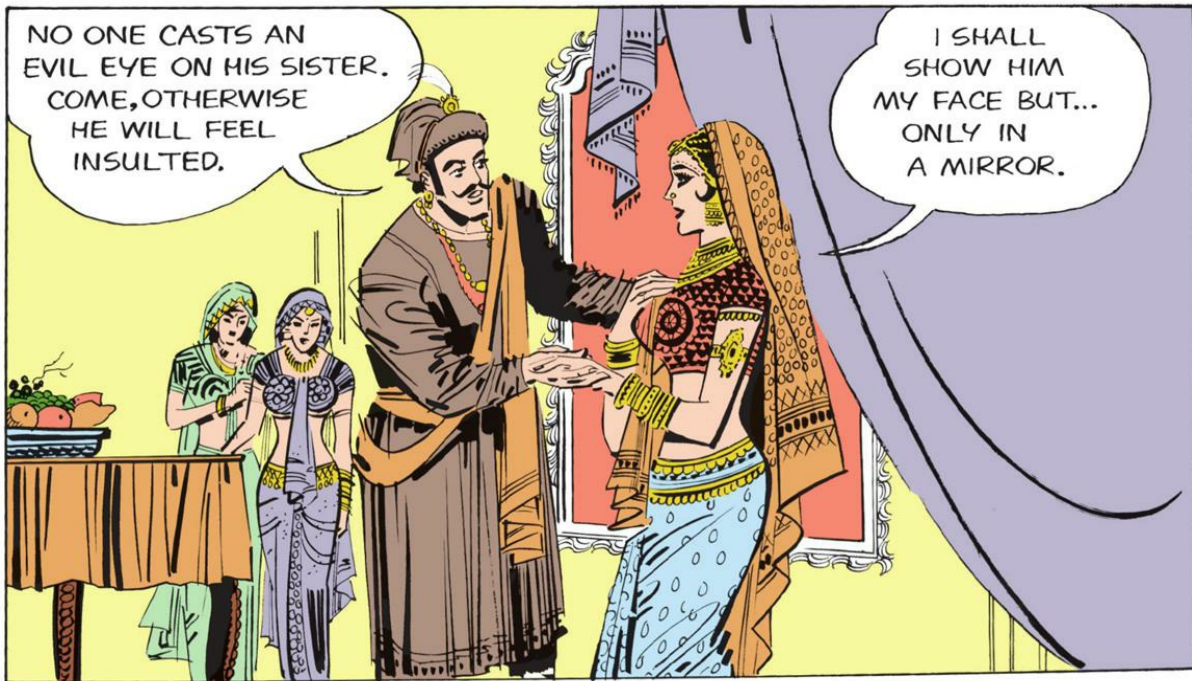
AS YOU
WISH
MAHARAJ!

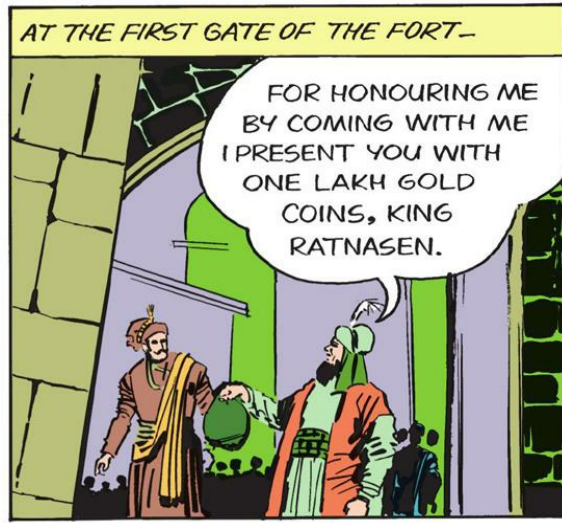
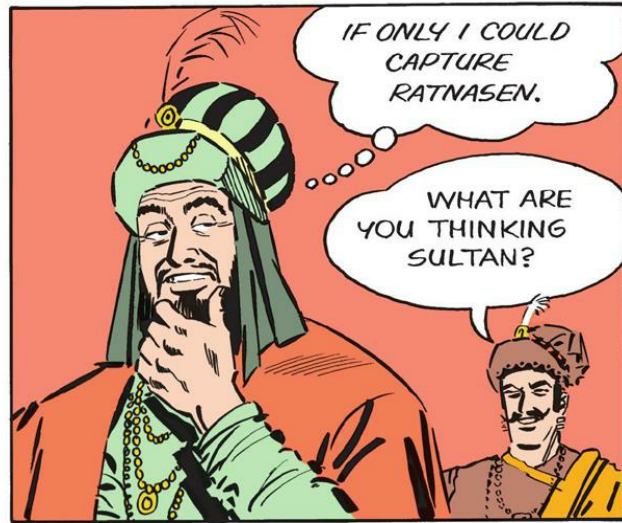


WHEN PADMINI DID NOT COME,
RATNASEN HIMSELF WENT
TO CALL HER.

NO, I WILL NOT
SHOW HIM MY FACE,
HE IS AN EVIL
MAN.

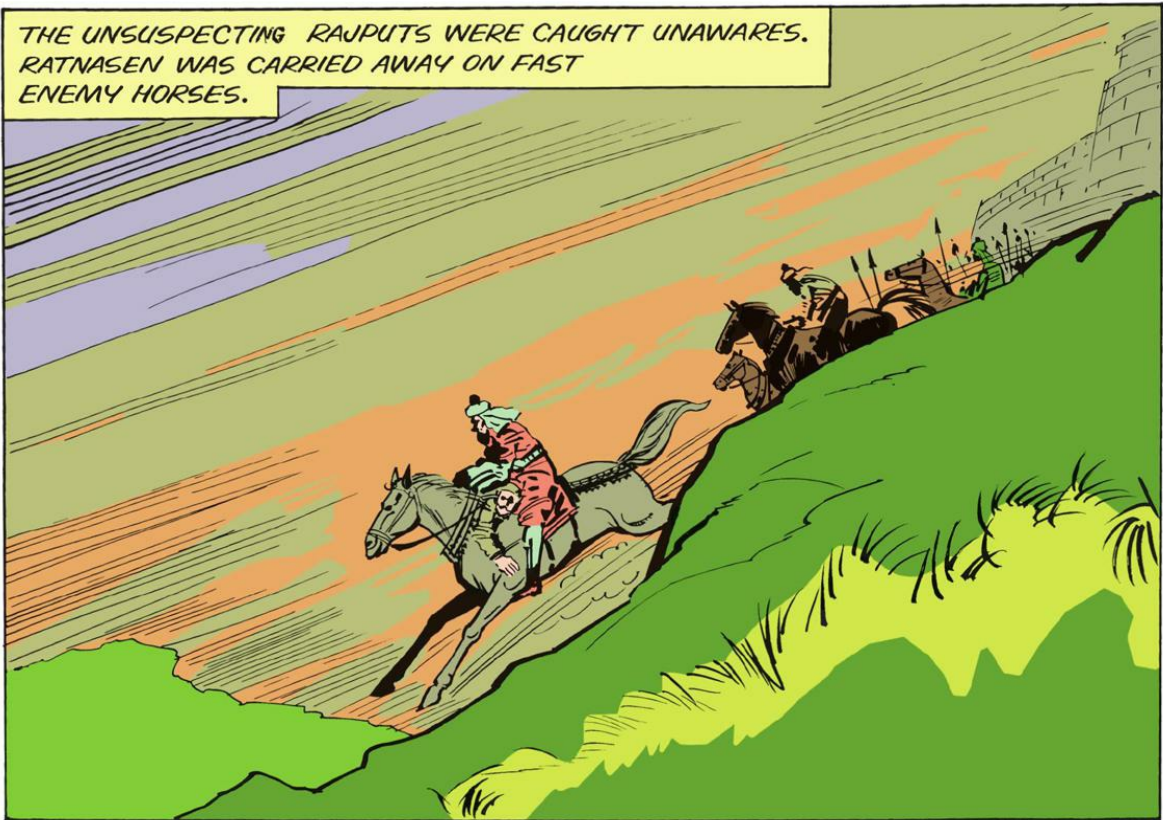




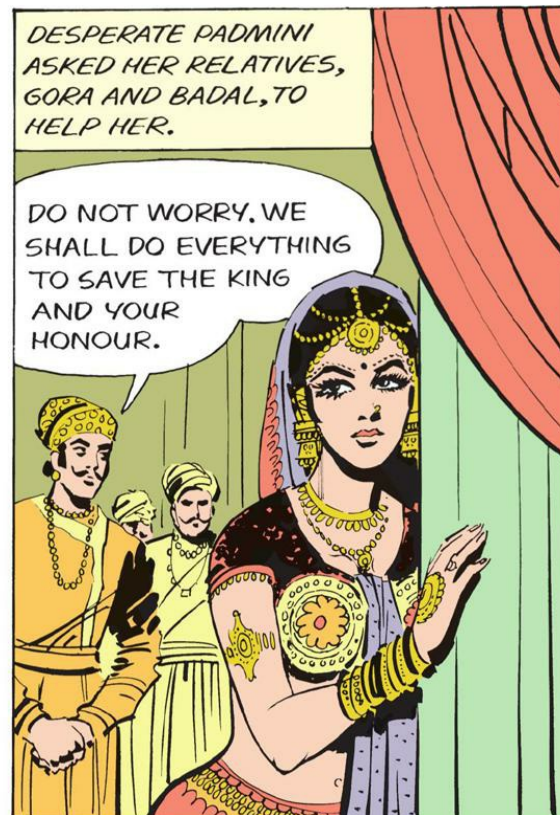


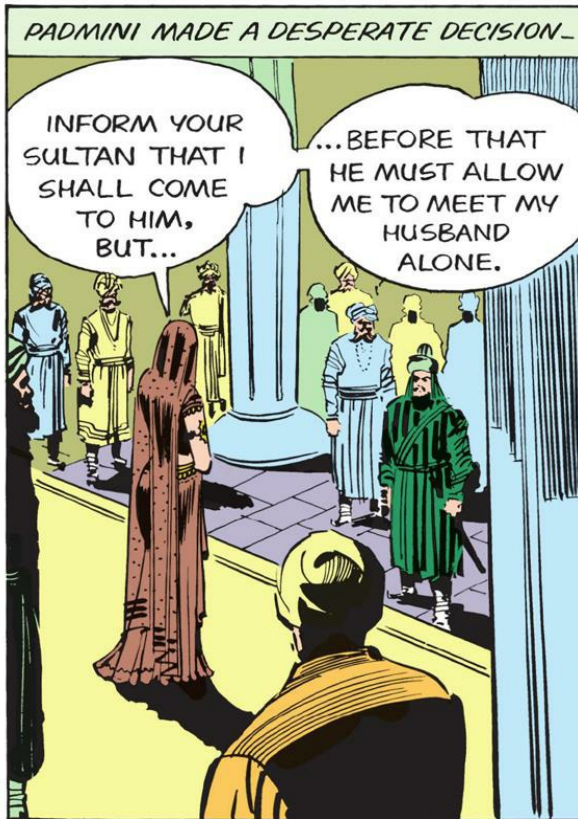
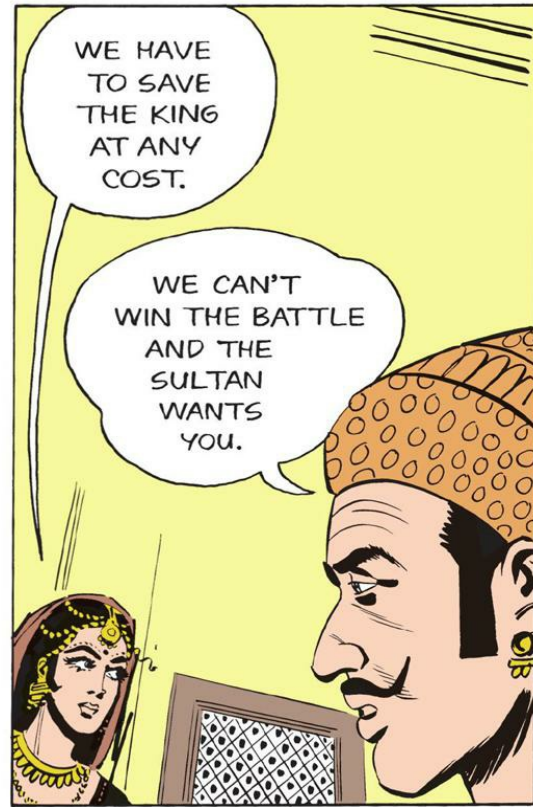
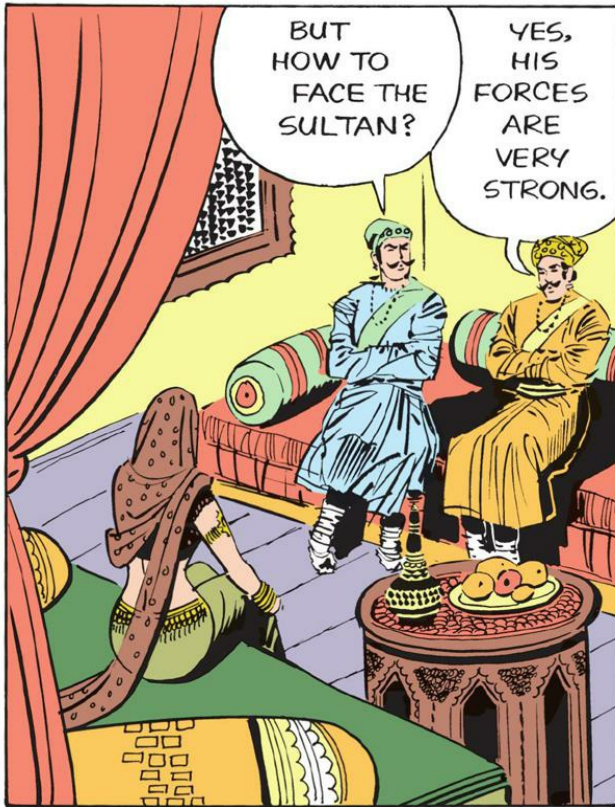


THE UNSUSPECTING RAUPUTS WERE CAUGHT UNAWARES. RATNASEN WAS CARRIED AWAY ON FAST ENEMY HORSES.





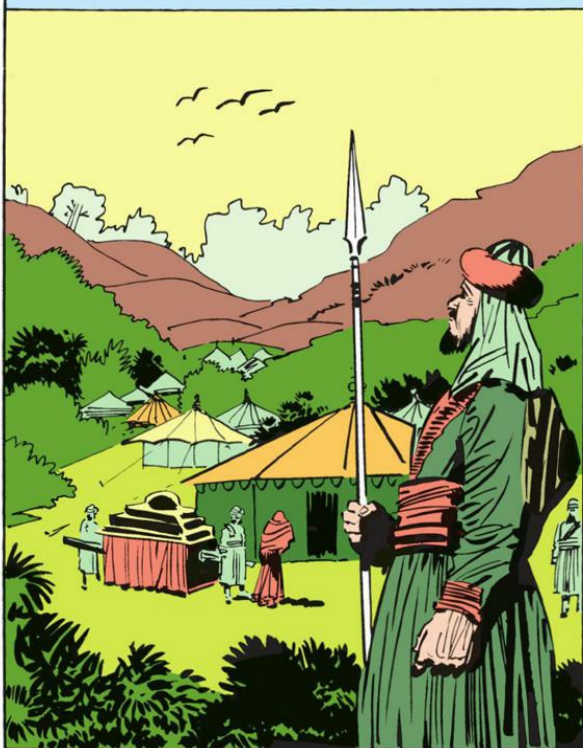




PADMINI HAD FIVE HUNDRED MAIDS. NEXT MORNING
FIVE HUNDRED PALANQUINS LEFT THE FORT.



PADMINI'S PALANQUIN WAS CARRIED
TO PRISONER RATNASEN'S TENT.



KING RATNASEN WAS VERY UPSET.

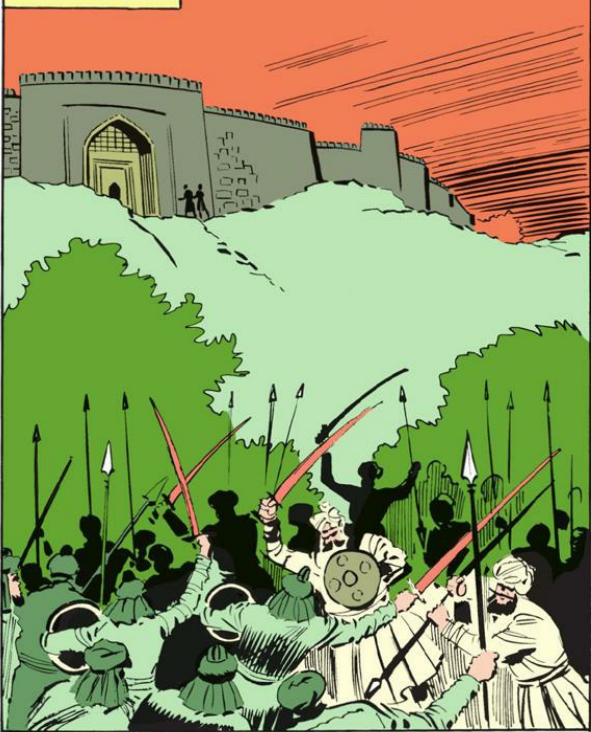




RATNASEN WAS RELEASED AND RUSHED TOWARDS THE FORT. GORA DRESSED AS A PALANQUIN BEARER GAVE THE SIGNAL.



RATNASÉN REACHED THE FORT SAFELY.

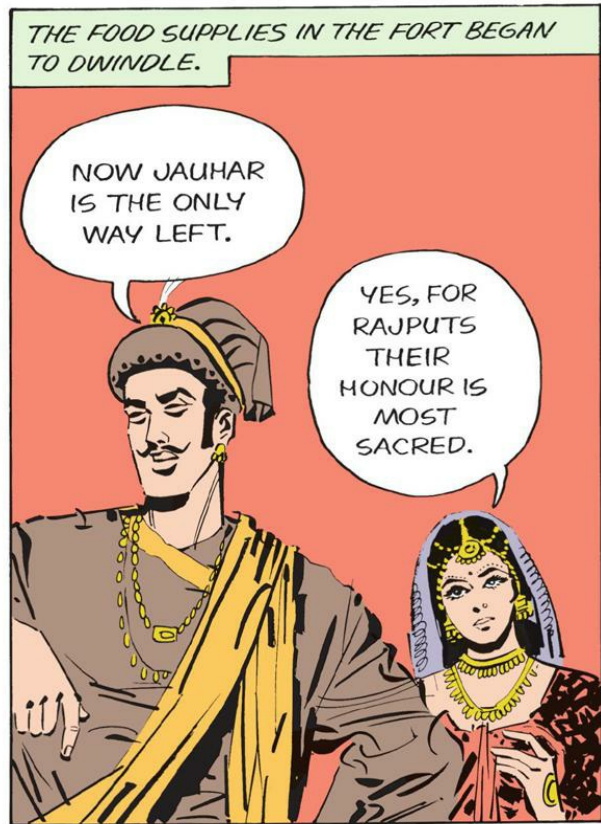
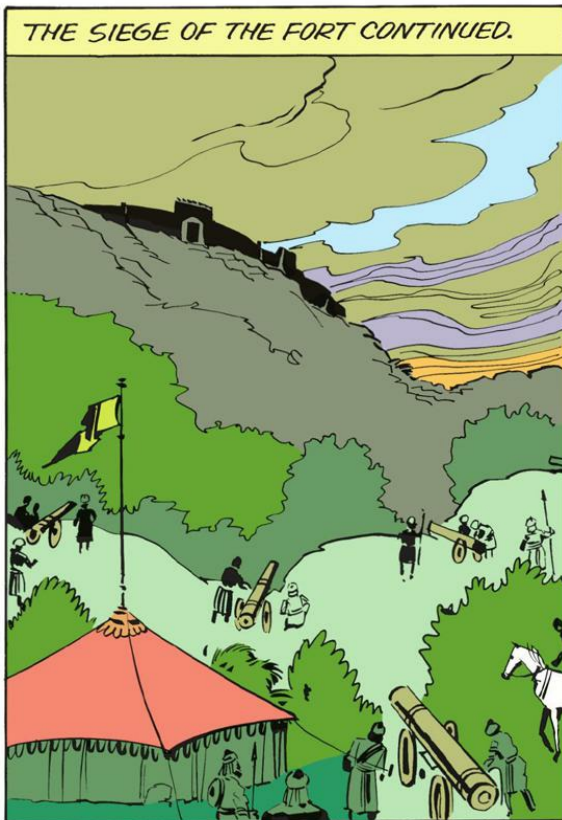


BUT GORA WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE.



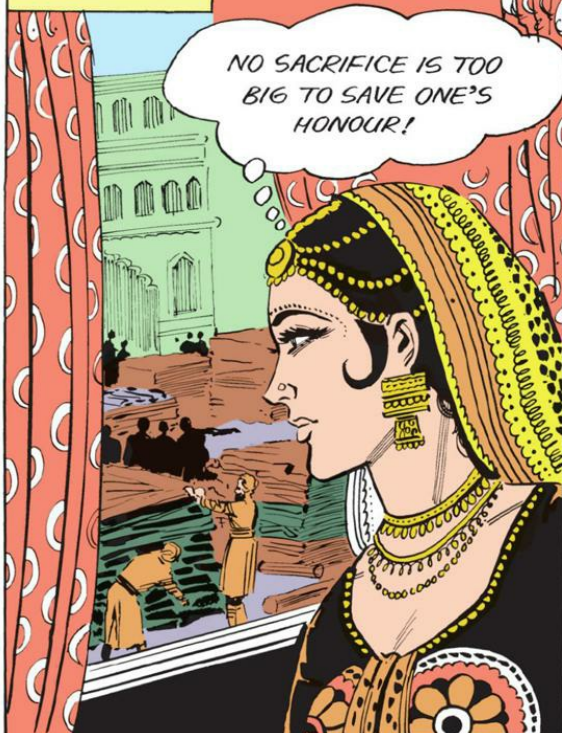
ALA-UD-DIN WAS FURIOUS.



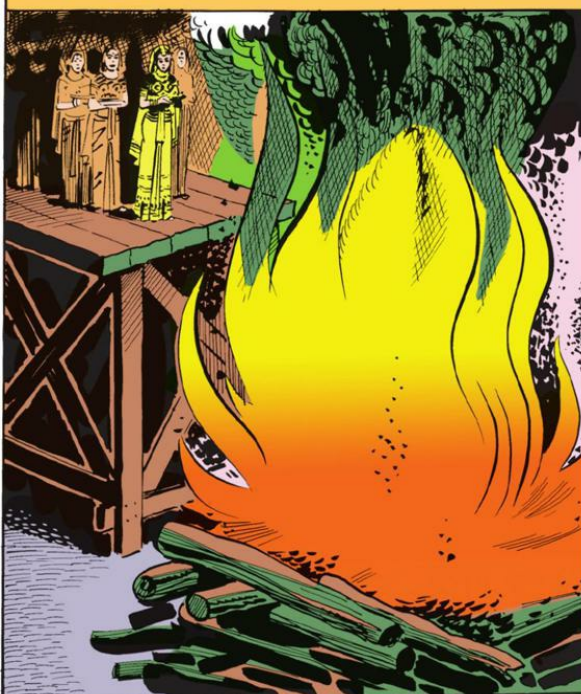


SO, HUGE PYRES WERE LIT INSIDE THE FORT.

NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG TO SAVE ONE'S HONOUR!



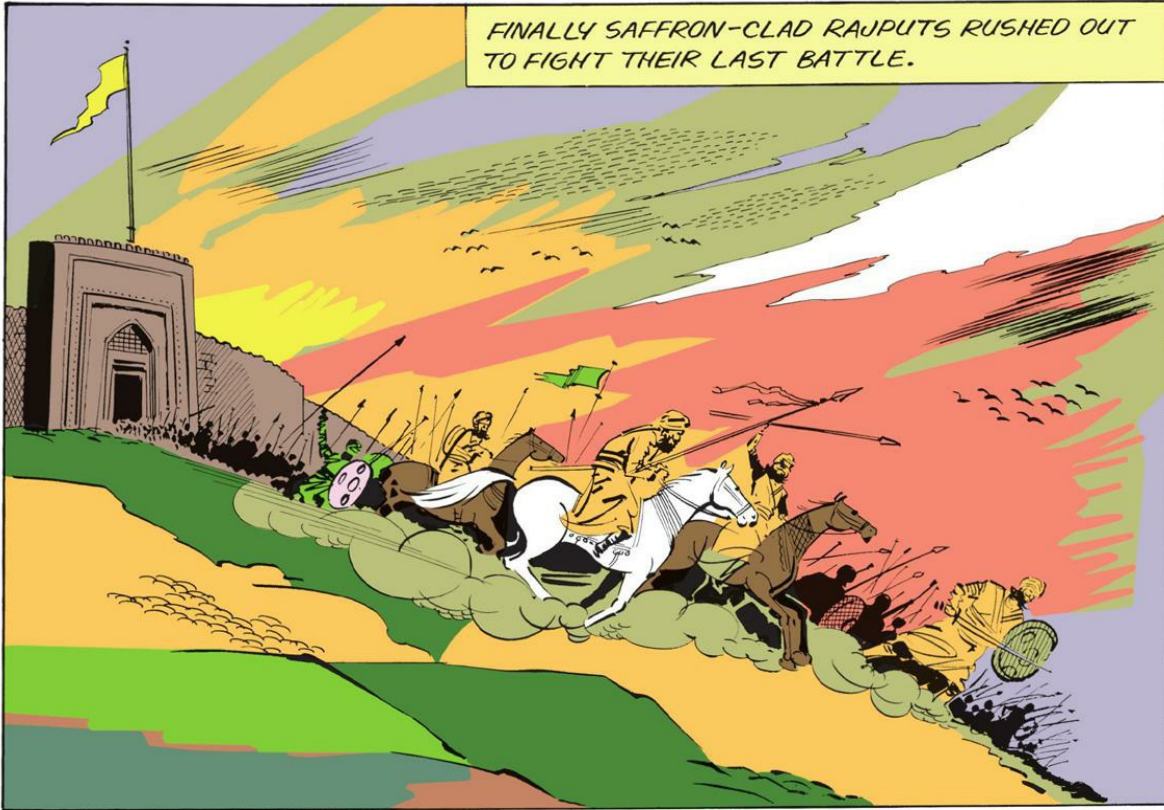
SO, PADMINI LED THE RAJPUT LADIES TO JAUHAR, THE GREAT SACRIFICE BY SELF-IMMOLATION.



THE RAJPUT WOMEN PREFERRED DEATH TO DISHONOUR.



FINALLY SAFFRON-CLAD RAJPUTS RUSHED OUT TO FIGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE.



AFTER THEIR WOMEN HAD PERFORMED JAUHAR, NO RAJPUT HAD ANY DESIRE LEFT TO LIVE. THEY WERE THERE TO DIE, BUT THEY TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY LIVES.



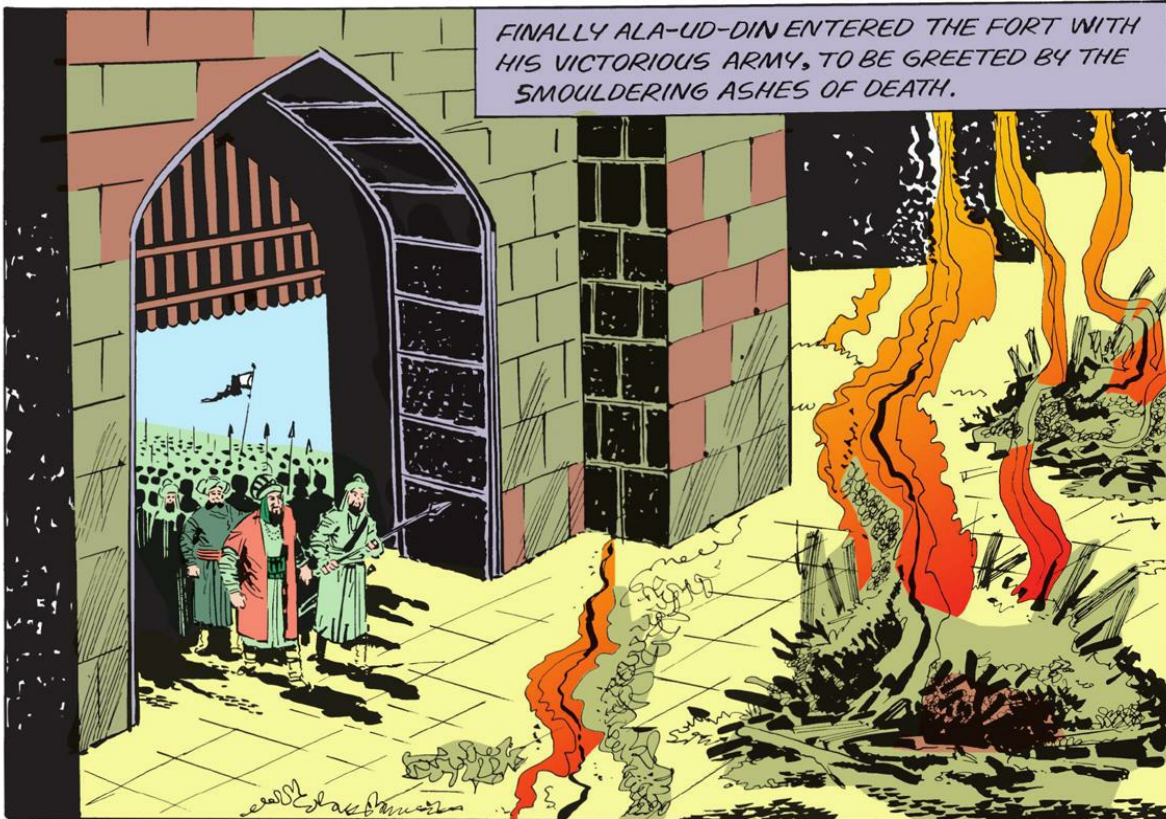
THE SMALL BAND OF RAJPUTS WAS NO MATCH TO THE HUGE ENEMY ARMY. SOON THE BATTLE WAS OVER.

WHY DIDN'T THEY SURRENDER. AGAINST MY ARMY? IT WAS SURE DEATH FOR THEM.

BUT WHAT A GLORIOUS DEATH!



FINALLY ALA-UD-DIN ENTERED THE FORT WITH HIS VICTORIOUS ARMY, TO BE GREETED BY THE SMOULDERING ASHES OF DEATH.





BUT WHY
DID THEY
KILL
THEMSELVES?

YOUR
MAJESTY!
YOU WILL
NEVER
UNDERSTAND.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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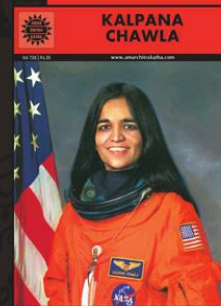
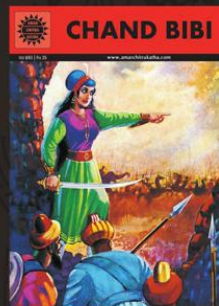
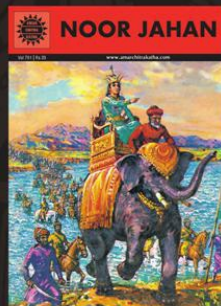
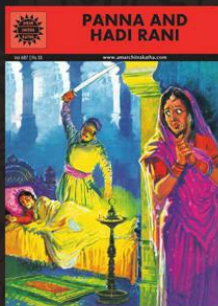


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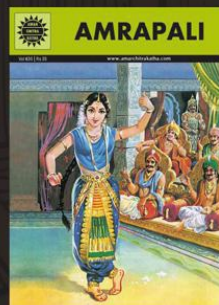
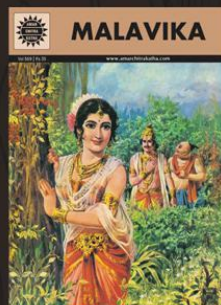
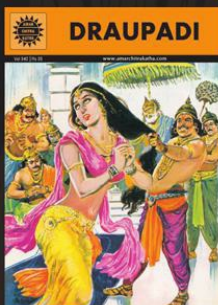
PADMINI

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